

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 05361 101054Z

50

ACTION PM-07

INFO OCT-01 NEA-14 ISO-00 NSC-07 SP-03 SS-20 RSC-01

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 SAM-01 MC-02 IGA-02 DRC-01 L-03

/072 W

----- 104668

R 101025Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7768

INFO USCINCEUR/VAHINGEN GER/ECJ7

DA WASHDC/DALO-IL

CNO WASHDC/OP-63

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 5361

E.O. 11652: XGDS

TAGS: MASS, LE

SUBJECT: TOW MISSILES FOR LEB ARMY

REF: USDAO BEIRUT 128MAR74 DTG 220650Z MAR 74

1. MAY 8 I MADE COURTESY CALL ON MAJOR GENERAL CHANEM, CG LEB ARMY. DURING THE COURSE OF A FRIENDLY GENERAL CONVERSATION HE RAISED THE QUESTION OF SUPPLYING LEB ARMY WITH TOW GROUND-TO-GROUND ANTI-TANK MISSILES. HE HAD BEEN INFORMED BY DEFATT THAT LEAD TIME FOR THESE WEAPONS IS TWENTY-SIX MONTHS AND THIS WAS UNACCEPTABLE TO LEB ARMY. LEB ARMY WAS PERFORCE CONSIDERING OTHER SOURCES SUCH WEAPONS BUT GHANEM SAID HE PERSONALLY WAS STRONGLY OPPOSED TO OBTAINING ANYTHING OTHER THAN U.S. EQUIPMENT. HE EMPHASIZED THAT HE WAS NOT TRYING TO BLACKMAIL US IN ANY WAY BUT WANTED US TO BE AWARE OF THE PROBLEM THAT HE WAS FACING FROM HIS OWN SOLDIERS, BUT MORE PARTICULARLY FROM POLITICIANS.

2. TOLD GHANEM I WAS SPEAKING PURELY PERSONALLY BUT WOULD LIKE HIS ADVICE ON WHETHER A LIMITED NUMBER  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BEIRUT 05361 101054Z

OF WEAPONS AND ONE OR TWO LAUNCHERS MIGHT ASSIST HIM

SO THAT HE MIGHT BEGIN TRAINING PERSONNEL, SHOWING THEM OFF IN MILITARY PARADES, ETC.

3. GHANEM'S REPLY COULD BE SUMMED UP AS ANYTHING IS BETTER THAN NOTHING. GHANEM ADDED HE KNEW I WAS CALLING ON PRESIDENT THE NEXT DAY AND HE THOUGHT PRESIDENT MIGHT ALSO RAISE SUBJECT WITH ME.

4. SURE ENOUGH, YESTERDAY MORNING PRESIDENT MENTIONED THE TOWS. HE SAID HE WAS IMPRESSED WITH THEIR DEFENSIVE CHARACTER AND THE FACT THAT THEY WERE PRECISELY THE WEAPON REQUIRED FOR HIS SMALL DEFENSIVE FORCE. HE DID NOT REPEAT NOT ALLUDE TO ANY POSSIBLE OTHER SOURCE BUT DID SAY THAT HE WAS UNDER TREMENDOUS PRESSURE FROM BOTH POLITICIANS AND THE MILITARY TO OBTAIN SOME OF THESE WEAPONS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. WHILE HE DID NOT ELABORATE IT WAS CLEAR THAT HE KNEW WE WERE FURNISHING THIS WEAPON TO OTHER COUNTRIES. I TRIED TO EXPLAIN THE SHORT SUPPLY OF THESE WEAPONS, LEAD MANUFACTURING TIME, ETC., BUT HE SMILED, SAYING HE KNEW WE HAD SOME IN EXCESS OF OUR OWN STRATEGIC RESERVE.

5. I FULLY REALIZE THE DIFFICULTY IN SUPPLYING ALL 648 MISSILES AND 18 LAUNCHER IN LESS THAN TWENTY-SIX MONTHS. HOWEVER, I BELIEVE THAT AN EFFORT SHOULD BE MADE TO SUPPLY TWO LAUNCHERS AND A DOZEN OR TWO MISSILES IMMEDIATELY. THIS WOULD ENABLE LEB ARMY INITIATE TRAINING PROGRAMS AND WOULD PERMIT THE PRESIDENT TO SAY THAT THIS MODERN DEFENSIVE WEAPON WAS NOW IN LEB ARMY INVENTORY. PRESIDENT MADE IT VERY CLEAR THAT LATTER WAS THE POINT THAT INTERESTED HIM THE MOST. GODLEY

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MILITARY ASSISTANCE, TOW MISSILES, MISSILES, MILITARY SALES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 10 MAY 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GarlanWA  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1974BEIRUT05361  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** X3  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D740114-0640  
**From:** BEIRUT  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1974/newtext/t19740559/aaaacahs.tel  
**Line Count:** 92  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION PM  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** USDAO BEIRUT 128MAR74 DTG 220650Z MA, R 74  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** GarlanWA  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 21 AUG 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <21 AUG 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <11 FEB 2003 by GarlanWA>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** TOW MISSILES FOR LEB ARMY  
**TAGS:** MASS, LE  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005